

Amendment

U.S. Patent Application S.N. 10/681,882

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Remarks:

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful examination of this application and her indication that claims 3-6, 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

With respect to the Section 112 rejections, the main problem was the language that was used to provide that the tab could be either on a bent portion of one panel or on another panel. This language is not unclear. Also, there is no language in claim 1 requiring that there be only one bent portion. The phrase "one panel" in claim 2 that lacked antecedent basis has been corrected to "first panel". Also, an error in claim 4 was corrected, changing the word "projection" to "tab". This should resolve all the Section 112 problems.

The Examiner has noted that Brown does not teach a strap with an opening sized to receive the protrusion from the tab and that this feature is recited in claims 1 and 7. Instead, Brown teaches a protrusion that abuts the bottom edge of the strap. See, for example, Figure 5 of Brown, in which the protrusion 50 passes through the strap 44c and then lies below the bottom edge of that strap. In that case, the protrusion and strap cooperate only to restrict the panel on the left from moving upwardly relative to the panel on the right when the protrusion 50 abuts the bottom of the strap. However, when the protrusion is received in an opening of the strap, as recited in claims 1 and 7, the strap restricts the protrusion from moving upwardly, downwardly, and longitudinally relative to the strap, because the projection will come into contact with the edges of the opening as it begins to move in any of those directions. Thus, Brown does not teach or suggest the improved functionality that is achieved by receiving the projection in an opening of the strap. In order to make that point more clearly, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to add that functionality. Since Brown does not teach a mechanism that functions in the same way as receiving a projection in an opening of the strap, claims 1 and 7 recite a structure that is both novel and unobvious in view of Brown.

Claims 3, 4, 5, and 10 have been put into independent form and should now be allowable, based on the first Office Action. Claim 12 has been canceled.

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Since all the claims recite an invention that is both novel and unobvious in view of the prior art, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all the claims. If there are any remaining problems with this application, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a phone call to help expedite their resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Fritz Camoriano
Reg. No. 30,038
Camoriano and Associates
8225 Shelbyville Road
Louisville KY 40222
phone 502-423-9850
fax 502-426-1167